

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 4309

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 34054

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING NOV. 29-30:
EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS

FOLLOWING IS SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF SECRETARIAT
DOCUMENT TC(76)24 WHICH WILL SERVE AS BASIS OF
DISCUSSION ON EAST-WEST TRADE RELATIONS AT NOVEMBER
MEETING OF TRADE COMMITTEE:

BEGIN TEXT

1. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF AT ITS 47TH SESSION THE TRADE
COMMITTEE WERE TO REVIEW THE MAIN TRADE PROBLEMS WHICH
MIGHT ARISE IN MEMBER COUNTRIES' RELATIONS WITH THE
EAST EUROPEAN COUTRIES AND DISCUSS THE DESIRABILITY
OF MAKING MORE THOROUGH STUDIES OF THEM AND OF
THE PRIORITES WHICH SHOULD BE GIVEN TO CERTAIN
QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE MAIN ITEMS IN A
PROGRAMME OF WORK. WITH A VIEW TO AIDING THE
COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSIONS THE SECRETARIAT HAS PROVIDED
THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE MAIN LINES WHICH HAVE
NOW EMERGED FROM THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION.

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2. THE PART OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATEMENT ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON TRADE QUESTIONS IN 1977 HAS ALREADY DEALT IN GENERAL TERMS WITH THE RENEWED INTEREST OF OUR MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THEIR TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IN IT HE SAID "THE INITIAL PURPOSE OF THE WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THIS FIELD WILL BE TO TAKE STOCK OF DEVELOPMENTS, REVIEW THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE INCREASE IN TRADE HAS COME ABOUT AND IDENTIFY THE IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED AND THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH STILL REMAIN" (C(76)177 - SEC. 7.18). IN ADDITION, WITH REGARD TO EXPORT CREDITS, TRADING CONDITIONS WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE ONE OF THE IMMEDIATE TARGETS OF THE INCREASED EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A CONVERGENCE OF POLICY LINES AND PRACTICES IN MEMBER COUNTRIES (SEE SEC. 7.9) AND OF THE PLANNED FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH IN DEPTH CONNECTED WITH THEM.

3. THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION FOLLOW THE SAME LINES BY GIVING PRIORITY TO TRADE QUESTIONS IN ANALYSING EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

4. THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION SHOWED THE DELEGATIONS ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD TRY TO FILL IN THE GAPS IN THE STUDIES CARRIED OUT TO DATE;

IN THOSE STUDIES AN ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN CYCLICAL FACTORS AND STRUCTURAL FACTORS;

- THE STUDIES SHOULD BRING OUT THE DIFFERENCES IN THE SITUATIONS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES AND OF EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES;

- AN ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO DISCOVER WHY THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD DIFFICULTY IN

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BALANCING THEIR TRADE (PATTERN OF PRODUCTION, UNSUITABILITY OF THOSE COUNTRIES' PRODUCTS, ETC.);

- DOCUMENTATION SHOULD BE ASSEMBLED ON CERTAIN PRACTICES SUCH AS EXPORT PRICES, DUMPING AND RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES;

- THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF

EAST-WEST TRADE SHOULD BE EXAMINED, AS WELL AS

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THEIR REPERCUSSIONS ON INDEBTEDNESS, NAMELY
THE ROLE AND TERMS OF EXPORT CREDITS AND OTHER
SOURCES OF FINANCE; COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS,
ETC.;

- THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE TRADE RECIPROCITY
PROBLEM SHOULD BE ANALYSED;
- DOCUMENTATION SHOULD BE ASSEMBLED ON EAST
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES' ECONOMIC PLANS, TRADE
LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES WHICH
MIGHT AFFECT COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS.

5. THESE VARIOUS POINTS INVOLVE MAKING STUDIES
OF VARYING EXTENT AND DIFFICULTY. WHILE SOME OF THEM
ONLY REQUIRE THE SECRETARIAT, USING EXISTING DOCUMEN-
TATION, TO MAKE A MORE THOROUGH STUDY OF THE QUESTIONS
IT HAD ALREADY EXAMINED, OTHERS WOULD NEED NEW INVEST-
IGATIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN, USUALLY WITH THE
CO-OPERATION OF GOVERNMENTS.

END TEXT

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